

NLK-75-174

ASSESSMENT OF NEW REPORTS OF REVOLUTION AGAINST CASTRO

Several recent reports state that an uprising will take place in Cuba by early March. The most specific report, received through US Navy channels, comes from a source who, though apparently not involved in the plotting, picked up his information in both Havana and Santiago de Cuba.

The Navy report states the following: The uprising will begin at 2300 hours on February 20, 1963. It will involve unnamed high military officials and Cuban exile groups in Miami. Revolutionary attacks will be conducted simultaneously in 136 different cities, communities, and installations in Cuba. The attacks will proceed with or without US assistance. The plan is to seize Santiago de Cuba and facilities throughout Cuba and to hold them for at least 24 hours while calling for US assistance. Leadership is unknown, but an Enriquez (or Ernesto) Martinez is believed to be second in command of the movement.

In addition, Agence France Presse and Associated Press reported, on February 17, two clandestine broadcasts which declared that an Army of Liberation was on a "war footing" within Cuba and that Cuba would soon be freed from Communism. The liberation broadcasts, monitored in Key West, allegedly emanated from within Cuba on a frequency normally used by the Cuban Government. It is not yet established whether the broadcasts came from Cuba or elsewhere. AP claims that its source of information was an AP radio monitor in Key West, but its story was not placed on the wires until almost six hours after an AFP release to the Far East covering the same broadcasts.

Recurring stories since early December, coming from various anti-Castro Cubans on the island (some having links to exile groups in Miami), have referred to scheduled uprisings. One group in Miami, the Batista-oriented National Union of Revolutionary Institutions (UNIR), helped to promote publicity about a revolt scheduled for June 1962 which, like others referred to at various times, did not come off. The UNIR underground in Cuba, according to recent report, intends to stage an uprising in the latter part of February or early March of this year. The revolt was originally scheduled to take place on January 28, 1963 but was postponed for unspecified reasons.

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Since April of 1961, the number of counter-revolutionary organizations has increased but the resistance groups seem to be even less coordinated and less capable of instigating revolt than before. Castro's repressive forces have arrested and executed many resistance leaders and their organizations have been compelled to rebuild constantly. In short, the various organizations do not appear to have the effective leadership, organization, and united purpose necessary to undertake a large-scale counter-revolution.

Moreover, penetrations of the anti-Castro groups are commonplace. It is possible, therefore, that some of the current reports of impending revolution are sponsored by the Cuban intelligence services for their own purposes.

If it were indeed true that a counter-revolutionary plan had the support of a number of high military officials, possibilities for a large-scale revolt would be greatly enhanced. Available evidence on the Cuban military does not show that important leaders are dissatisfied with Castro. On the contrary, the military appears to be firmly loyal to the Cuban leader. MIE 85-63 (Possible Developments with Respect to Cuba), the text of which was agreed upon last Saturday by the USIB representatives, states that the Cuban ground forces are probably well able to control internal resistance. The draft estimate also counts the Cuban military and security forces, whose readiness Castro has improved, among his supporters.

The possibility of a small uprising in one or more parts of Cuba cannot be excluded. There has been a recent revival of overt expressions of opposition, and sporadic and uncoordinated acts of resistance and sabotage have been on the increase in recent weeks. However, on the basis of information at hand, there seems to be little likelihood that a large-scale uprising will occur soon.

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